

**CTED Annexation Study  
Status Report  
September 10, 2004**

HB 3068, introduced during the 2004 Legislative Session, proposed a study of the progress of annexation in the key urban counties of the state and to identify both barriers and incentives to achieving full annexation or incorporation of the urban areas in these counties. The bill received strong support from King County, where there are challenges to annexing the remaining unincorporated portions of the county's urban growth areas (UGAs). HB 3068 did not pass, but the Supplemental Budget (ESHB 2459) provides for a study of the barriers to annexation in the six buildable lands counties (King, Pierce, Snohomish, Kitsap, Thurston and Clark).

CTED is to gather annexation data and survey counties, cities and residents of unincorporated areas. CTED must also provide recommendations to the Legislature as follows:

- Propose possible changes to city and county taxing authority which will serve to aid the transfer of annexation of remaining urban growth areas in a timely manner;
- Identify and discuss the need for funding of capital improvement projects needed to provide urban levels of service;
- Assess the role and statutory authority of the boundary review board and how altering their role and authority might facilitate annexation; and
- Propose possible changes to growth management or annexation processes which will facilitate annexation.

CTED must report to the local government committees of the Legislature no later than December 1, 2004. The proviso language is attached.

**Steps to date**

CTED has hired AHBL, a consultant, to conduct some of the survey work and develop recommendations. CTED has convened a committee to advise the agency on data gathering and the recommendations. A survey has gone out to elected officials and planning directors in the six counties regarding the barriers to annexation and possible solutions. Focus groups with residents in unincorporated urban growth areas are being conducted from September 14 to 30.

**For more information**

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